

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (new): A connector, comprising:

at least one female part for forming a sealing connection with at least one male part;
and

a plurality of locking tangs formed in the female part for engaging the male part, each of the locking tangs having at least one recess configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

Claim 11 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the recess comprises a hole extending at least partially through the corresponding locking tang.

Claim 12 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the recess comprises a hole extending completely through the corresponding locking tang.

Claim 13 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein at least one of the locking tangs has the recess extending transversely to a longitudinal direction of the male and female parts.

Claim 14 (new): The connector of claim 13, wherein at least two of the locking tangs have the recesses for receiving the tool to urge apart the locking tangs.

Claim 15 (new): The connector of claim 14, wherein the tool is inserted into the recess of each of the two locking tangs to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

Claim 16 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the male part includes at least one shoulder for engaging the locking tangs.

Claim 17 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the male part includes at least one groove for engaging the locking tangs.

Claim 18 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the female part is substantially cup-shaped.

Claim 19 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the plurality of locking tangs are formed integrally with the female part.

Claim 20 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the locking tangs have free ends pointing in a direction of insertion of the male part into the female part.

Claim 21 (new): The connector of claim 20, wherein the free ends of the locking tangs project into a space in the female part for engagement with the male part.

Claim 22 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein each of the locking tangs has a smooth portion, and another smooth portion is formed on the female part, such that the smooth portions together form a position indicator indicating whether the male part is properly inserted into the female part.

Claim 23 (new): The connector of claim 22, wherein upon proper insertion of the male part into the female part, the smooth portions are in the same radial position, whereas upon improper insertion of the male part into the female part, the smooth portion of each locking tang is displaced radially outwardly of the male part.

Claim 24 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the connector includes a plurality of female parts forming at least one of an in-line connector, an elbow, a tee, and a cross.

Claim 25 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein the female part includes at least one nipple for mounting at least one pipe or hose.

Claim 26 (new): The connector of claim 10, wherein at least one fluid flows through the male and female parts.

Claim 27 (new): A connector for forming a sealing connection between at least one female part and at least one male part, comprising:

a plurality of locking tangs formed in the female part for engaging the male part, each of the locking tangs having an engaging means configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

Claim 28 (new): The connector of claim 27, wherein the engaging means is a recess or hole.

Claim 29 (new): The connector of claim 28, wherein each of the locking means has the recess or hole extending transversely to a longitudinal direction of the male and female parts.

Claim 30 (new): The connector of claim 29, wherein at least two of the locking tangs each have the recess or hole for receiving the tool to urge apart the locking tangs.

Claim 31 (new): The connector of claim 30, wherein the tool is inserted into the recess or hole of the two locking tangs to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

Claim 32 (new): The connector of claim 27, wherein the engaging means is a projection or lug.

Claim 33 (new): The connector of claim 32, wherein the engaging means extends in a longitudinal direction of the male and female parts.

Claim 34 (new): A method for forming a releasable connection between at least one female part and at least one male part, comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of locking tangs in the female part, each of the locking tangs having at least one recess and configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts; and
engaging the locking tangs with the male part.

Claim 35 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the male part is formed with at least one first shoulder and at least one second shoulder, and the female part includes at least one O-ring.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 35, wherein the step of engaging the locking tangs with the male part comprises the steps of:

engaging the locking tangs with the at least one first shoulder of the male part; and
engaging the locking tangs with the at least one second shoulder of the male part such that the at least one O-ring of the female part becomes compressed.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of:

inserting the tool into the recesses of two of the locking tangs to urge apart the locking tangs and disengage the connection between the male and female parts.